

The Anchorage Amateur Radio News Bulletin

October, 1994

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Newsletter
Publisher - Harvey Rookus, NL7DK

Vol. 23, No. 10

The 23rd Annual AARC Hamfest Was Fun, Now Let's Begin Planning For the 24th !!

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Remember We're Having A Chinese Auction At The October General Meeting!

This year the Hamfest had an additional two vendors from Outside, Electronic Rainbow from Ohio and Startek from Florida. Both vendors said that they chose to come to Anchorage after learning of the Hamfest in the September issue of QST Magazine.

The AARC Directors recognized at the September Board Meeting that with the improvements in the local commercial real estate market, we will have to begin planning for each year's Hamfests much earlier than in the past. The Board agreed that planning for the 24th Hamfest should begin in November

and Lil Marvin, NL7DL volunteered to coordinate the efforts of the Hamfest Committee. If the proposed change in elections is approved at the October General Meeting, that will also help to improve planning for both the Hamfest and the June Field Day events.

Internet Link Having Difficulties

The following is a request that was presented to the AARC Directors at the September Board Meeting by John Lawson, NL7NC. The request was for \$1,000 for the possible replacement of radio, TNC and modem equipment used for the AKGATE Internet Link and for \$75 for the replacement of a power supply used in the club's computer.

As of September, the club had the funds which would be used to satisfy the request, however, we had already used up that portion of the budget dedicated to such purposes. Therefore, the Board voted unanimously to recommend the request to the membership for their approval at the October General Meeting

(Continued on page 5)

By Law Changes Due For Vote At Oct 7th Meeting

The most recent draft of the proposed changes for the AARC By Laws was presented at the July General Meeting. It was decided by a vote of those present to schedule the final vote on the changes for the October 7th General Meeting.

A copy of the draft was published in the August edition of the Newsletter.

The changes will be presented to the membership present at the October Meeting first as a motion to approve all of the changes. If that motion doesn't pass, then the changes will be presented individually for a vote on acceptance.

AARC GENERAL MEETINGS are held on the first Friday evening of each month in Room 102 of the Carr-Gottstein Building on the Alaska Pacific University Campus. The campus is located at 4101 University Drive and Bragaw Streets. Parking is available only in the lot to the northeast of the building. The meetings begin at 7:00 PM and visitors are always welcome! The AARC legendary raffle is open to everyone.

AARC BOARD MEETINGS are held on the second Wednesday evening of each month in Room 104 of the Carr-Gottstein Building on the APU campus. The meetings begin at 7:00 PM and are open to all club members and visitors.

ANCHORAGE ARES NET The Anchorage area Amateur Radio Emergency Services net is held each Thursday evening at 8:00 PM on the KL7ION repeater on 147.3 (+.600). Net Control is Lil Marvin, NL7DL and alternate NCS station is KL7IO. The Westlink Amateur Radio report, Swap N Shop and the Parka Net follow the ARES net on the same frequency.

THE KL7AA REPEATERS sponsored by the club are on 146.94 (at minus .600), 224.94 (-1.600) and 444.7 (+5.000). The 146.94 repeater located near Flatop Mt. and the remote receiver at Government Hill use either 100 or 141.3 hz tones for access. The West Anchorage remote receiver uses only 100 hz tones. The 125 cm and the 70 cm repeaters located near Flat Top Mt. do not require tone for access at this time. The AARC sponsored repeater at Mt. Alyeska, 146.76 (-.600), is equipped with the 141.3 hz tone, but does not require it for access at this time.

The repeater trustee is William Reiter, KL7ITI. Doug Dickinson, KL7IKX, is chairman of the VHF/UHF committee.

KL7AA-7 PACKET OPERATIONS Ports are 145.01 and 145.96 mhz direct at 1200 baud and via the secondary network on 145.05 and 445.05 mhz at 1200 baud and on 7.110 mhz at 300 baud (alias HF40). The Iceworm network is available on 147.96 mhz. Remember that 147.96 is normally in use as the Iceworm link to other Alaskan communities and please limit use of this frequency to the hours of 1600 to 220 daily.

A landline port is available at 1200 - 14,400 baud, V32.bis/MNP5 compatible, registration is required. Contact Sysop Mel Saunders AL7PB at 349-4372 for info, or Associate Sysops, Doug KL7IKX, Paul WL7BF, Jim NL7C, Bill AL7MM, John NL7NC and Merle AL7LD.

FREE LICENSE EXAMS are held on the first Wednesday evening of the month at 6:30PM in the Carr-Gottstein Bldg on the APU campus and on the third Wednesday evening of the month in Eagle River at 7PM in the basement of the VFW Hall.

VEC exams are also held on the second Saturday of each month at 2 PM at the Hope Cottage offices, 540 W. International Airport Blvd. For more information contact VEC Director, Roger Hansen, KL7HFQ at 892-6365.

AARC MEMBERSHIP DUES are \$20.00 regular, \$25.00 family and \$10.00 student. Dues are due one year from date of last payment. There is a 30 day grace period. Life memberships are available. Contact Lance Dunbar, AL7BK, (H) 337-6297 or (W) 561-5457.

Please remember that the club receives \$2.00 for each ARRL membership renewal and \$5.00 for each new ARRL membership if they are processed through the AARC.

Calendar

OCTOBER

VEC Tests 5th
AARC Meeting 7th
(Time To Plan The
Christmas Party)
VEC Tests 8th
AARC Board Meeting 12th
SCRC Meeting 14th

NOVEMBER

VEC Tests 2nd
AARC Meeting 4th
AARC Board Meeting 9th
SCRC Meeting 11th
VEC Tests 12th

DECEMBER

AARC Christmas Party 2nd
VEC Tests 7th
SCRC Meeting 9th
VEC Tests 10th
AARC Board Meeting 14th

JANUARY

VEC Tests 4th
General Meeting 6th
VEC Tests 8th
AARC Board Meeting 11th
SCRC Meeting 13th

Then There's Next Year!

The Anchorage Amateur Radio News Bulletin is the monthly newsletter of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club.

Letters to the Editor and articles for publication should be submitted to Harvey Rookus, NL7DK, 3310 Checkmate Drive, Anchorage 99508. Telephone number (907) 333-4693.

Articles and Notices for the paper should be typewritten or on IBM compatible formatted computer disks (5.25 or 3.5 inch). Deadline is the 20th of each month.

Treasurer's Report

by John Lawson, NL7NC

The transaction report, budget report and balance sheet for the month of August were presented to the AARC Board of Directors at the September Board meeting.

There was no activity in the Gaming Accounts in August. The next distribution of funds from Boniface Bingo, Inc. is expected at the next (BBI) Board of Directors meeting on September 15th.

A check for \$890 was received from Fred Tolliver in August. The amount represents the final closeout of the old AARC checking account for Boniface Bingo, Inc. The money was deposited into the club regular checking account.

The second quarter gaming reports for the club were completed and submitted. [See related article *Notes On Gaming Results*]

No activity occurred during August in the Life Member Account.

I met with our CPA Nancy Adams on September 1st. Nancy is still working on the club's 1992-93 tax return and expects to have it done this month. The holdup on this return is due to a discrepancy in the club's financial records of approximately \$1,100 for 1992

[Editor's Note: this represents an ADDITIONAL \$1,100 of club funds ON HAND, not an unknown expenditure].

I do not have the necessary records to find the problem, so have instructed Nancy to "write it off". I also delivered to her all of the records required to complete

the club's 93-94 tax returns, after which we will be current on our taxes.

We received a Notice of Penalty and Interest on the previously filed 1991-92 return in the amount of \$667.97 from the IRS. I paid the bill, but Nancy is going to protest the penalty amount of approximately \$300 on the club's behalf.

After reading the IRS regulations regarding Excise Taxes, I responded to the IRS Fairbanks office with a letter stating that the AARC is not responsible for Excise Taxes on gaming proceeds for the years 1989, 1990 and 1991.

The Treasurer requests Board approval to transfer \$3,000 from the gaming account to the club checking account to cover Hamfest and on-going expenses.

Respectfully submitted,
John Lawson, NL7NC
Treasurer

Overheard At The Board Meeting

The antenna for the 147.30/.90 hot standby backup repeater has been installed.

The Technical Committee anticipates installation of the backup repeater on Site Summit by the end of September.

The ARCO UHF node was moved to Site Summit and renamed EAGLE-4. It is now on 440.05 Mhz.

The frequency shift was to reduce the interference between the 1200 and 9600 BPS frequencies.

The new 125 and 70 cm repeater antenna for KL7AA has improved performance on the 440 repeater.

The coverage on 440 now covers Fort Rich. The antenna is a Comet 3300 dual band repeater antenna.

Selected Items From The Gaming Reports For June

Second Quarter 1994 Results.

Pull Tab Gross Revenues	\$203,403.53
Prizes Awarded	<u>\$156,339.89</u>
Adjusted Gross Receipts	\$ 47,063.64
Rent	\$ 8,910.00
Accounting	\$ 2,596.83
Wages	\$10,043.67
Total Expenses (Includes expenses not listed above)	<u>\$ 36,957.90</u>
Net Pull-Tab Receipts	\$ 10,105.74
Bingo Gross Revenues	\$170,365.80
Prizes Awarded	<u>\$157,095.66</u>
Adjusted Gross Receipts	\$ 13,270.14
Total Expenses	\$ 16,311.35
Net Bingo Receipts	<u>\$(3,041.21)</u>
Combined Gaming Revenues	<u>\$373,769.33</u>
Combined Net Gaming Receipts	<u>\$ 7,064.53</u>

Condolences

Our thoughts are with Arlene on hearing of her sister's death, following a stroke. She passed away on September 7th

Seward Highway Cleanup

The last highway cleanup of the year took place on September 10th. With Harley and Arlene called out of town, Fred Erickson - KL7VC took over the task of supervising.

Those participating in the Cleanup were: Fred - KL7VC; Joan - WL7IB; Jana - NL7WV; Bill - AL7JK and his wife Georgia; Bill - KL7ITI; Lil - NL7DL; Harold - KL7PG and Harvey - NL7DK.

Our Thanks to all and especially to Fred for taking over at the last minute.

Please remember that the club is also committed to the Cleanup for next year. This is a two year commitment to the Department of Transportation in exchange for a sign posted on the highway at Potter Marsh which gives recognition to the club.

Harley and Arlene want us to know that the Spring Cleanup will be next May. The exact date will be in the April and May Newsletters.

There will be two other cleanups next year. The second cleanup will be scheduled for just after the Fourth of July Weekend and the third cleanup will be scheduled for just after the Labor Day Weekend.

Club members are encouraged to participate in this worthwhile public service project.

August VEC Exam Results

Location	Call	From	To
Anchorage			
Kenneth P. Allen		None	Tech
Robert H. Anderson		None	Tech
Ray E. Andreassen	WL7BJN	Novice	Tech Plus
Rebekah L. Banse (15)	WL7CHQ	Novice	Tech Plus
Chris F. Brosh		Tech	Tech Plus
Stanley F. Chmiel	KL7GSX	Advanced	Extra
Geary L. Gannon		None	Tech
Patricia K. Ham	WL7CGF	Novice	Tech Plus
Paul T. Kiester		None	Tech
Keith N. Larsen		None	Tech
Alexander F. Mayer		None	Tech
Jennifer M. Michael (19)		None	Tech
Johnie B. Saul		None	Tech
Barbara A. Starr-List		None	Tech
Chris D. Titus	WL7CAW	Tech	General
James M. Wiedle	WL7NO	Tech	General
Leonard P. Worcester	WL7IM	Tech	General
Leonard P. Worcester	WL7IM	General	Advanced
Howard T. Wright	WL7CFL	Novice	Tech Plus
Eagle River			
Paula J. Anderson		None	Tech
Alan A. Barnsley		None	Tech Plus
Christopher F. Eaves (20)		None	Tech
Heidi J. Gruzensky (13)		None	Tech
Trish C. Gruzensky		None	Tech
William D. Gruzensky		None	Advanced
Corey L. Rogers	WL7MG	Tech Plus	Advanced
Roger G. Prescott	WL7CHP	Novice	General
Earnest L. Sandidge, Sr.		None	Tech
Fairbanks			
Peggy V. Beagle		None	Tech
Lawrence E. Johnson, Jr.		None	Tech
Charles R. Hammond	WL7VO	Tech Plus	Advanced
Jay P. Langton		None	Tech
Terry J. Maher		None	Tech
Kathleen R. Pearse		None	Tech
Jonathon A. Riche (14)		None	Novice
Betsy Tozzi	WL7RA	Tech Plus	Extra
Kenai			
Daughn R. Carpenter		None	Tech
Sharon M. Gaines	WL7CHS	Novice	Tech Plus
Benjamin Haring (11)	WL7CHA	Tech	General
D. Roger Lebner		None	Tech
Russell J. Taylor (14)	WL7CHB	Tech Plus	General
Bernard W. Whitehead		None	Tech
Bernard W. Whitehead		Tech	Tech Plus
Jack K. Vandelaar		None	Tech
Wasilla			
Michaela L. Gruzensky (11)		None	Tech
Willow			
Karl A. Wurlitzer	KL7UPS	Advanced	Extra

Note: Tech = No Code Technician
 Tech Plus = Technician with HF privileges
 Submitted by Roger Hansen, KL7HFQ

(Continued from page 1)

as a budget variation.

Request:

As the sysop for the Alaska Internet gateway, I am requesting funding from the AARC board for the following:

1. Replacement of the AARC 386-20 PC power supply (\$75).
2. Purchase of additional radio equipment, TNC's, and modems for the 9600 bps radio link for AKGATE if needed (up to \$1,000).

Status:

The Alaska Internet Gateway (AKGATE:NL7NC-6) has been in operation for about three weeks. Software and setup glitches have been ironed out, and the gateway now allows access to over a hundred different packet nodes, BBS's and DX Clusters around the world. Dedicated NETROM routes have been established to Winnipeg, Toronto and San Francisco.

The gateway has proven to be very popular with local users, with 4 to 5 users logged on during most prime evening hours. The gateway is also being used to support the NL7C-1 DX Cluster with information from other clusters in the Lower 48.

Bulletin forwarding for KL7AA-7 has not yet been successful due to a very poor packet connection from the Internet Alaska site.

Computer:

It was my original intent to use the old AARC 386/20 PC for the gateway. The computer would not run longer than 24 hours without lockup, and it is

suspected that the power supply has gone south. I'm now using a Packard Bell 286/12 PC from my personal stock. The 286 works OK with JNOS gateway software, but it is slower than desired. I would request permission to purchase a new power supply for the computer.

Radios/TNC's

We're now using TEKKS-900 radios and MFJ 1270B TNC's with G3RUH modems for the 9600 BPS radio connection between AKGATE and KL7IKX's node stack (DD/DPD/AHS). The power output of the radios is 2 watts at 445.11 Mhz. Approximately \$300 has been spent to install a Comet GP-6 antenna and 1/2" hardline at the Internet Alaska site.

The radio connection between AKGATE and the local packet LAN is very poor despite much experimentation with frequencies, antennas, baud rates and software configuration. At this time it is unsure what we're going to do to correct the problem.

The RF path with the current antennas is good. The VHF Committee is working very diligently to come up with a solution, which may involve tuning of the existing radios or purchase of improved radios, TNCs and/or modems. The problem is being compounded by very heavy use of AKGATE by local users, the local DX cluster and outside hams trying to connect through AKGATE to KL7AA-7.

One of the suspected problems with the radio connection is the age of the equipment that we are using. The TNCs/modems were purchased used about three years

ago, and is older generation equipment that have since been upgraded as best we can. The radios are also of older vintage and are no longer in manufacture.

Both Kenwood and ICOM have recently started making "plug n play" 9600 BPS capable FM mobile radios for the VHF and UHF bands. AEA, Kantronics, DRSI and Pac-Comm are also selling off-the-shelf 9600 BPS TNCs at very reasonable prices. It is expected that the use of 9600 BPS packet will increase with this new equipment availability.

Summary

At this point, I'm not sure what we are going to do to fix the radio path to AKGATE. We will work to use the existing equipment if at all possible, but it may be necessary to purchase something different in the way of current generation TNCs/modems and higher power radios. With the popularity of AKGATE, I feel it is important that we provide the best radio path that we can so that users will get maximum use and enjoyment from it, and also so that we can use AKGATE for its' original intended purpose of providing bulletins for KL7AA-7.

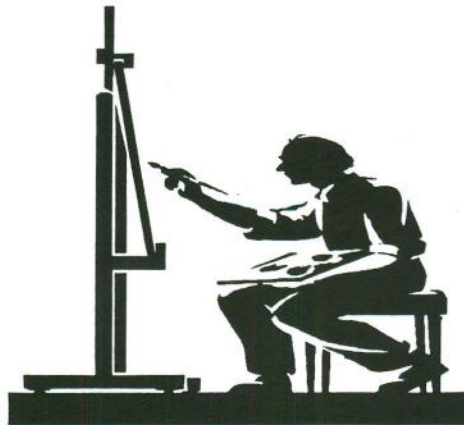
To meet this goal, I would ask the AARC board to authorize an additional expenditure of no more than \$1,000 to purchase new radios, TNCs and/or modems for AKGATE. This money will not be spent if the radio path can be fixed with the existing equipment, and will only be used at the discretion of the VHF Committee.

Many thanks, John Lawson, NL7NC.

More From The

Real Life Sketches

of Harvey Rookus, NL7DK



The Eklutna Towers

Have you ever wondered about the five towers that stood on the Eklutna Flats? All I knew was that they were FAA! I am a member of a net called the Old China Hands. In running their newsletter for the summer, I received a letter from Glen N6CX.

Glen has been a Ham since February 1930, is 85 years of age and with a really sharp memory. He was with the 15th Inf Regt and the Signal Corps in China from 1930-1935.

In Glen's letter he told of being in the Third AACS Wing with HQ at Elmendorf. He tells of helping build a Medium Frequency transmitter plant on the Eklutna Flats for the Air Force working with the CAA (now FAA.)

The five towers were built sometime in the early forties. Glen told me that during the tower construction a "big swede" fell down through the center of one of the towers. He was not expected to live, but they loaded

him on a door and transported him to the hospital in Anchorage via a weapons carrier. It took three hours to get him to town. They didn't expect to see him again, but about a month later he was out looking for a job. The towers were approx 325 feet high.

Glen was "sort of a troubleshooter and travelled from hell to breakfast trying to keep the radio system in operation." Similar facilities were installed at Galena, Unalaska, and several other sites he could not remember. Glen also spent time installing a "long distance radio system" on Amchitka.

He ended his career with the Air Force supervising the construction of a huge transmitter/receiver site near Davis and Lincoln, California. This was one of two "Gateway" stations in the US. Big stuff; 100 KW xmtrs, 40 KW RTTY and a square mile of Antennas.

I thought it was interesting enough to share. Thanks Glen N6CX for the interesting thoughts from NL7DK.

SWAP N SHOP

For those of us who weren't able to get to the 23rd Annual AARC Hamfest and Electronics Flea Market, here are some items that are still available!!

For Sale: Yaesu FT-747GX HF Transceiver. Yaesu FP-757GX Switching DC Power Supply. Heathkit HW-8 QRP CW Transceiver w/ power supply.

RF Concepts RFC 2-23 Two Meter Linear Amplifier. Spider Multiband HF Antenna for 80 to 10 Meters with radials. Larsen Kulrod NMO-220 5/8th wave Whip Antenna. Contact Ed Maher, NL7VP (W) 249-3280 or (H) 243-4348.

For Sale: Henry 3K Classic Amplifier with 10 Meters, never used, \$3,000. Hygain Explorer EX-14 Broadbander w/ 40 Meter Kit - QK710, new in box, \$350.

ICOM IC2sAT, \$250. ICOM IC24AT, \$300. ICOM IC4sAT, \$225. ICOM IC02AT, \$200. Kenwood TH21 & TH21AT, \$100. Contact Bill Phifer, AL7IG, 243-0433.

For Sale: QST Collection 1976 to 1992, \$12 per year or \$150 for the set.

Analog Science Fiction/Science Fact Magazines 1984 to 1992, \$15 per year or \$120 for the set. Contact Richard Mote, AL7MO, 248-9191.

Watch this space for additional bargains (unless you have the patience to wait until the 24th AARC Hamfest next year!!)

Don't miss this month's CHINESE AUCTION!!

Bring an item to exchange to the next meeting!

Confucious say, " It will be a great time!!"

Also, our evenings guest will be Matt Manhardt of

INTERNET - ALASKA

Your honorable Activities Manager

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Matt Manhardt of Internet Alaska Will be our Guest Speaker Oct 7th

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